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ABANA Membership Meeting
Seattle, Washington
July 6, 2006

President Don Kemper called the meeting to order at 9:07 p.m.

Board members present:

Bob Jacoby
Jerry Kagele
Scott Lankton
Murray Lowe

Dorothy Stiegler
Chris Winterstein
Clare Yellin
Don Kemper
Elizabeth Brim

James Viste
Eric Ryser
Erik Lander

The general membership in attendance numbered approximately 25 members. Included were Jonathan Nedbor, Ryan Blessey, Ian Rose and Jim Ryan from the 2008 ABANA Conference organizing committee; Rob Edwards, editor of *The Anvil's Ring* and Brian Gilbert, editor of *Hammer's Blow*; John Steel and Chris Holt from the Pittsburgh Area Artist Blacksmiths representing the ABANA Relief Fund Committee and Mike Bondi and Bob Bergman, both former board members.

Proof of notice of the meeting was given.

Motion #1:

John Steel made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2004 Membership Meeting held in Richmond, Kentucky as written, and that they not be read in their entirety. Seconded by Bob Bergman. PASSED.

President's Report:

Presented by Don Kemper

Don mentioned that the ABANA Relief Fund has been one of the most satisfying events of the year and as of June 1, 2006 the membership had raised \$37,919.00. Of that amount \$28,000 had been distributed and the remaining amount of \$ 9,919.00 would be distributed immediately after the conference. Don also wished to thank the anonymous donor who made the entire project possible. He also wished to thank committee members John Steel, Chirs Holt, Cinde Wagner, LeeAnn Mitchell, Dave Koenig, Paul Moffett and Toby Hickman for their efforts.

Don discussed the finalization of the ABANA Educational Endowment Trust which currently had \$148,509.28 committed in trust with \$10,866.20 committed for scholarships. He also wished to

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thank Dorothy Stiegler, Cinde Wagner and the ABANA Educational Endowment Trust Committee for bringing this project to fruition.

Don also reported that the ABANA Budget was on target as the April 2006 financial report reflected \$329,105.91 versus the 2006 projected budget of \$341,734.00. As an act of faith one third of the fluid assets of ABANA have been committed to the ABANA Educational Endowment Trust which will promote grants and scholarships for the future. Don discussed that we needed to be very careful in the fiscal management of the organization, but felt like the move was a good one. Don also discussed the sales of the magazines at a reduced rate to decrease inventory and to get the resource rich back issues into the hands of the membership.

Don spoke briefly about the awarding of a Lifetime Membership to Brent Kington at the meeting in Memphis, Tennessee. He wished to thank Brent for his lifetime commitment to the art and craft of blacksmithing and was sorry that Brent was unable to attend the conference as one of the keynote speakers but that it was certainly understandable due to Brent's recent health problem.

Don concluded his report by mentioning that the deadline to run for the ABANA Board of Directors had been extended from June 15, 2006 to July 15, 2006 in order to recruit members at the conference. *The Anvil's Ring* would still be published on time. He also hoped that everyone would be able to join him at the 2008 ABANA Conference in New Paltz, New York in June of 2008.

Vice President's Report:

Presented by Clare Yellin

Clare wished to thank Don Kemper for all of his hard work and stated that everything Don had just discussed covered her report.

Treasurer's Report:

Presented by Dorothy Stiegler

Dorothy indicated that Don Kemper gave her report. She discussed the ABANA Educational Endowment Trust and the commitment of the organization to education. Don Kemper and Dorothy Stiegler thanked Cinde Wagner for her tremendous assistance with this project.

Secretary's Report:

Presented by Jerry Kagele

Jerry wished to thank everyone that attended the conference. He reported that the Central Office and Conference Office were running smoothly and had been a great help in the production of this conference.

Central Office:

Presented by LeeAnn Mitchell

LeeAnn wished to thank everyone that attended the conference and mentioned that the Central Office and the Conference Office were running smoothly, just a bit tired!

She discussed ABANA's new relational database and what it meant to the membership. She briefly explained that within the next year every member would have a card with their membership number on it which would allow members to access their personal records on line and make necessary changes. She also mentioned that if members had an older card that did not contain the number, all they had to do was contact her either by email or phone for their membership ID.

Committee Reports: Report by Division Chairs

Education Division:

Presented by Elizabeth Brim

Don Kemper wished to thank Elizabeth Brim for all her hard work on the galleries at the 2006 Conference. Elizabeth Brim mentioned that she was pleased with the turn out to the galleries and had had several very encouraging tours and discussions with curators and critics in the Seattle area during the conference. These contacts should prove beneficial in the future. She also mentioned that several possible ABANA members' exhibitions were in the planning stages.

Business Division:

Clare indicated that everything was going fine.

Membership Division:

Written by Dave Mudge and read by Eric Ryser

Dear ABANA Members and Board Members,

I hope that everyone is having a great time at this most excellent west coast conference. I wish with all my heart that I could be there with you to enjoy all that this conference has to offer and to help the crew with the tremendous amount of work that it takes to set this up and take it down. Unfortunately, I have other more pressing issues to deal with.

Last September a very big oak tree was blown over onto my shop and it was completely demolished. Even with good insurance and all of the help from concerned ABANA members, FEMA and others, the road to rebuilding is a very long and narrow one. After the hurricane, my first priority was to get a new roof on my house and replace the window glass. Having done that next was to remove the giant oak and pine trees that were scattered about like so many match sticks. The next priority was my shop. With the help of Myron Hanson, Dick Carlson, Charley Robinson and Nathan Bateman who came down all the way from Minnesota to help me dismantle and de-nail what was remaining of the shop building, I was left with just the bare concrete slab. (Thanks Guys!) I decided to replace the post and beam structure with a cinder block building. I contracted a crew and having to work with their schedule, well you guessed it, this week was the only opening available. On to ABANA stuff.

Member Services Report:

Under Member services we have Affiliate Relations and Long-Term Strategic Planning

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Affiliate Liaison Report:

We are honored to have added quite a few new ABANA Affiliates to our numbers. ABANA Board Member Eric Ryser will give a report on this activity. Eric has been invaluable in helping me with the affiliates. We are in the process of establishing an affiliate in Morocco at this time. If any of the affiliates have questions or issues, please feel free to contact me and together we will work something out.

Long-Term Strategic Planning: No report was presented

Internet Committee Report:

The ABANA web site is a dynamic and ever changing face of ABANA to the members and to the world. We try to make it easy to navigate and understand. Suggestions are always welcome. We have added "The ABANA Market Place" to the site. A clickable link is tastefully placed at the bottom of the home page. This is a commercial link to suppliers and vendors of blacksmithing related goods and equipment. Please check it out the next time that you visit the ABANA website, www.abana.org. We have also added an area for ABANA Affiliate newsletter editors to archive their files. This will make sharing information among the editors easier.

Communications Division: Maegan Crowley was not present

Conference Division:

Murray Lowe reported that the next conference is scheduled to take place in New Paltz, New York in late June of 2008. He has been in contact with the Jennifer Piren, the contact at SUNY New Paltz, and she indicated she would not be ready to work on a contract until September of 2006. Murray hopes to have most of this in place in time for the fall board meeting so that we can formalize a date. On the whole Murray felt things were progressing nicely and that the 2008 ABANA Conference planning committee was on schedule and doing a great job.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Don Kemper made a presentation of a Tom Clark Hammer to Jerry Kagele, 2006 Conference Chair for his tremendous efforts in the production of the conference.

COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

Motion #2:

Chris Holt made a motion to adjourn the Membership meeting. Seconded by Mike Bondi. PASSED.

The Membership Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.